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# ***Daily Report***

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# **Sub-Saharan Africa**

**FBIS-AFR-89-240  
Friday  
15 December 1989**

# Daily Report

## Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-89-240

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## Chad

### Small Air Force Plane Crashes in Ndjamena

AB1412203789 Libreville Africa No 1 in French  
1930 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] An aircraft of the Chadian Air Force crashed on takeoff on Tuesday [12 December] near the military base of the Chadian capital killing the two occupants of the aircraft. The aircraft was a small Marchetti of Italian make captured from the Libyan Army during the 1986 attack against the base of Ouadi Doum in northern Chad.

## Gabon

### Presidential Advisor, Other Officials Appointed

AB1412084889 Dakar PANA in French 1554 GMT  
12 Dec 89

[Text] Libreville, 12 Dec (AGP-GAB/PANA)—Paul Okoumba d'Okwatsegue, former secretary general of the Cultural and Technical Cooperation Agency (ACCT), has been appointed personal adviser to the head of state, in charge of relations with the French-speaking community and technical and vocational training. According to a presidential decree issued yesterday evening in Libreville, Okoumba d'Okwatsegue will also be in charge of relations with the ACCT, the Confemen (Conference of French-speaking ministers of education) and the Confejes (Conference of French-speaking ministers of youth and sports).

Other appointments were made to the head offices of the National Stevedoring and Transit Company (SNAT); the Gabon Harbors and Roadsteads Office (OPRAG), the Merchant Navy, and the national airline, Air Gabon. Finally, Fulbert Bongo Ayouma, former representative

at the Agency for Air Navigation in Africa and Madagascar, ASECNA, was appointed chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gabon Water and Power Company (SEEG). It may be recalled that last week the staff of this company embarked on a 48-hour strike leading to power cuts in vital sectors and some heavily populated suburbs of Libreville.

## Zaire

### Mobutu on Talks With Guinea-Bissau's Vieira

AB1512105489 Paris AFP in French 0305 GMT  
15 Dec 89

[Text] Kinshasa, 14 Dec (AFP)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko declared yesterday that he has advised his guest, Brigadier General Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau, "to take a cue from the manner in which Zaire and Zambia recently settled their border dispute" in handling the conflict between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. President Mobutu made this statement at the end of a few hours' working visit by Brig Gen Vieira to the Zairian capital, stressing that this conflict had seriously "poisoned" relations between the two countries.

President Vieira said he was seeking mediation in order to reach an agreement satisfactory to both parties. Shortly before leaving Kinshasa, the Guinea-Bissau president told the press that he had also wanted "to find out the stage at which Marshal Mobutu's mediation in the Angolan conflict has reached." He expressed "satisfaction with the role played by Marshal Mobutu towards reconciling the Angolan brothers", who have been fighting for 14 years. Finally, the Guinea-Bissau leader deplored the assassination of President Abdallah of the Comoro Islands, describing it as "the loss of a great African figure." "African countries must do everything to ensure that such a situation never recurs," he added.

**Pik Botha Says UN Declaration 'Unacceptable'**

*MB1512045689 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0449 GMT 15 Dec 89*

[Text] Pretoria Dec 15 SAPA—The declaration on apartheid adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday [14 December] night was fundamentally flawed and unacceptable to the South African [SA] Government, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said on Friday.

He said it was also bizarre, coming at a time when the SA Government was moving rapidly and resolutely towards creating a climate for negotiations.

In a statement he said the declaration, adopted by a special session of the General Assembly by consensus, sought to prescribe to South Africa what form its constitution should take. This action was in flagrant contravention of the United Nations Charter and was therefore outside the powers of the General Assembly. South Africa had no obligation to cognisance [as received] of the declaration.

Mr Botha said it was encouraging that some states had had the foresight to negotiate the removal of some of the more obnoxious elements that had been contained in the earlier drafts of the declaration.

"What remains is however fundamentally flawed and unacceptable to the SA Government, not least because it seeks to endorse negotiating positions of one probable party alone, of many whose participation in the elaboration of a new constitution for South Africa will be essential."

He said it also sought to prescribe components of the Constitution itself and to influence other parties in a manner which pre-empted negotiations themselves.

"The whole concept of a declaration at this time when the SA Government, under the leadership of the state president, is rapidly and resolutely taking measures to create a suitable climate for peaceful negotiations, is bizarre."

He said the sooner South Africans of all persuasions gathered around a table to work out their own future, without outside interference, the better it would be for the country.

**Envoy to UN Criticizes Declaration**

*MB1512073189 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 89*

[Text] The United Nations [UN] General Assembly has adopted by consensus a declaration that lays down broad guidelines for political change in South Africa, a decision condemned by South Africa's representative at the UN.

The decision taken last night on the 3d day of the assembly's current sitting in New York followed intensive negotiations between certain Western countries, including Britain and the United States, and the Africa bloc at the UN.

The parties differed on radical rhetoric and prescriptive conditions that would amount to direct interference in future constitutional negotiations in South Africa.

After the adoption of the declaration which ended a 3-day session on South Africa, the South African ambassador to the UN, Mr Jeremy Shearer, told the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] that the assembly still associated itself with the views of the ANC [African National Congress] which would probably be only one of the parties at future constitutional negotiations. He said that South Africa would also be forced to ignore the declaration because the assembly had violated the UN manifesto by deciding to interfere in the member states' domestic affairs.

The declaration, entitled the Declaration on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, included the release of all political prisoners and the lifting of the state of emergency as preconditions for the creation of a favorable climate for negotiation.

In its guidelines for a negotiating process, the assembly asks that all parties agree on a role for the international community to ensure a successful transition to a new democratic order in South Africa. It also asks that the present international sanctions and boycotts against South Africa not be lifted until there are desirable and irreversible changes in this country.

One of the most important constitutional guidelines is that a united, democratic South Africa be formed non-racially, that a declaration of human rights forms part of the future constitution, and that an economic dispensation be created ensuring the prosperity of everyone.

**De Klerk-Mozambique's Chissano Talks Previewed**

*MB1512081289 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0803 GMT 15 Dec 89*

*[By Norman Patterton]*

[Text] State President F.W. de Klerk and Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha left for Maputo on Friday [15 December] for talks with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano.

Mr de Klerk and Mr Botha are due to return to South Africa on Friday afternoon.

It will be an official visit, and the two presidents will have lunch together, followed by a working session.

The release of jailed ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela is expected to be discussed on Friday, along with the subjects of economic cooperation and security matters—particularly the Mozambique National Resistance's activities in Mozambique.



The talks will be a continuation of discussions between Mr de Klerk and President Chissano held on July 19 this year, when Mr de Klerk was the National Party leader.

Speculation about the release of Mr Mandela—fuelled by meeting at Tuynhuys between the ANC leader and Mr de Klerk this week—will almost certainly be raised at Friday's talks.

Mr Mandela's position was discussed at the July 19 meeting.

Other matters, of bilateral interest, such as resuscitating the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme, may be raised.

It will be Mr de Klerk's fifth African trip this year, following his earlier meeting with President Chissano, and his visits to Zaire and Zambia in August and to the Ivory Coast earlier this month.

#### **Limpet Mine Kills 3 Policemen Near Port Elizabeth**

*MB1512062289 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0616 GMT 15 Dec 89*

[Text] Port Elizabeth Dec 15 SAPA—A limpet mine exploded in a police vehicle on the Motherwell-Koega Road in the eastern Cape late last night, killing three policemen and a civilian SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reports.

The explosion apparently took place just before midnight, about 25km from Port Elizabeth.

The names of those killed have not yet been released.

#### **Study Predicts Growing Sanctions Campaign**

*MB1512052789 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
2228 GMT 14 Dec 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 14 SAPA—South Africa faces more economic sanctions in the medium and long term as the sanctions lobby continued to step up pressure on overseas governments, according to the findings of a recent study.

The report "The Sanctions Prognosis for 1990" compiled by the local branch of the International Freedom Foundation [IFF], says future prospects for sanctions against Pretoria were bleak.

"While in the short term, the prospects for further European sanctions against South Africa seem unlikely, in the medium to long-term, the situation is considered less favourable," the report says.

The IFF reached its conclusion after studying developments in Europe and the Far East.

"While the sanctions lobby may not make an immediate impact on legislative decisions in various Far Eastern countries, a network is rapidly being put in place for the immediate purpose of gathering data on South Africa's trade relations in the region."

Mr Warwick Davies-Webb, projects and research director at the IFF's Johannesburg office, says "the accumulated efforts of the sanctions lobby are having an increasingly debilitating effect on efforts by a number of European governments to resist the call for sanctions, with Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany being particularly vulnerable".

The report identifies the anti-apartheid movement, the World Gold Commission, End Loans to Southern Africa, the Shipping Research Bureau, the International Labour Organization, Socialist International, and the "Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Internationale Samewerking" [Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation] as the more prominent groups involved in the promotion of sanctions against South Africa.

It says three major considerations that may impede the work of the sanctions lobby in Europe are:

- The disintegration of Eastern Europe;
- Global environmental issues; and
- An emerging train of thought which believes that turning South Africa into an economic wasteland is not a solution to Africa's dire socio-economic problems

The report urges South Africa to lobby Brussels now "so that its increasing economic and political power does not compromise South Africa's [SA] trade relations with the EC beyond 1992".

"Europe will be coming under pressure from the U.S. to apply stricter measures against SA from 1990," it says.

#### **Commentary Notes Changing Impressions of Country**

*MB1512054689 Johannesburg Domestic Service  
in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] For all its predictable posturing and fanciful prescriptions, the debate on South Africa in the United Nations General Assembly this week did produce something of significance. It provided a demonstration of the extent to which there has been a realignment in recent months in the traditional alliances in international attitudes to South Africa.

In particular, the hardlines in some African and other Third World countries are being isolated as formerly steadfast allies shift to a more accommodating stance. The development reflects both the fundamental ideological changes taking place in the socialist bloc and the growing perception that genuine progress towards negotiated constitutional change is under way in South Africa.

The reorientation became clear from the opening stages of the debate, when the UN secretary general delivered a message to the assembly that contrasted sharply with the doomsday warnings of the first African speakers. Prospects for a negotiated solution in South Africa were far

more hopeful than at any time before, Dr Perez de Cuellar said. Recent developments in the country provided grounds for guarded optimism that peaceful and fundamental change was now possible.

Dr de Cuellar made the statement after receiving a letter from Foreign Minister Pik Botha outlining the goals for a new South Africa to which the government had committed itself. Far-reaching steps were being taken, Mr Botha said, to create a climate for negotiations from which would emerge a democratic political system in which none would have the right to govern others without their consent. The government was irrevocably committed to a dispensation in which individual and minority rights were protected and all were equal before the law.

Not surprisingly, this manifesto and developments inside South Africa made no impression on the hardlines in the assembly. Taking their cue from the internal radical groups whose lobbyists were much in evidence, they stuck to the well-worn line of dire predictions and demands for punitive action.

What did surprise observers was the marked change in the tone of speeches from what used to be the East bloc and from other governments that until recently were firmly in the camp of hardliners. The new foreign minister of Czechoslovakia delivered what a correspondent described as a relatively restrained message: In contrast with the harsh rhetoric of his predecessor, he spoke merely of a still unresolved problem. Conspicuously different also was the tone adopted by the Soviet ambassador, who emphasized the need for negotiation rather than confrontation. Among the Scandinavian countries, Finland mildly cautioned the international community to be patient and to take note of recent actions by President de Klerk.

Clearly there is a new alignment taking shape in international attitudes on South Africa. Governments in the West that have shown themselves ready to react constructively to genuine progress are getting support from unexpected quarters. Despite the efforts of those who still proclaim a doctrine of total confrontation, the changes taking place in South Africa are being noticed.

#### 15 Dec Press Review on Current Problems, Issues MB1512101089

[Editorial Report]

#### THE STAR

**New UN Stand Toward RSA 'Refreshing'**—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 15 December in a page 10 editorial states: "It is refreshing to hear a somewhat different note on South Africa emerging at the United Nations. Opening a special session on apartheid, Secretary-General Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar noted that prospects for a negotiated solution were 'far more hopeful than at any point before'." "It is encouraging to

see some recognition of the new potential for change in South Africa." "Unhappily, such pragmatism is unlikely to find a home with American sanctioners. Their blinkers remain firmly in place, despite mounting evidence that their campaign will do lasting harm to the post-apartheid economy they would wish to support." "Mr Herman Cohen, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, is on record as saying there is consensus between him and Congress that there should be 'maximum flexibility' over sanctions. It would be useful to see that consensus put to the test."

**Media Not Yet 'Unshackled'**—A second editorial on the same pages notes that "over the years many South African newspapers have been threatened with penalties under section 205 of the Criminal Procedure Act, which prescribes jail sentences for journalists who refuse to disclose their sources of information." "Its application, along with other recent harassment of newspapers, seems particularly inappropriate at a time when there has been so much talk for relaxing some of the onerous curbs under which the press has had to live. The promised South Africa cannot come about until the media are unshackled as well."

#### BUSINESS DAY

**'Healthy Tensions' Among Opposition Now Evident**— "The questioning of Nelson Mandela's right to negotiate with government without a mandate from the ANC [African National Congress] or the MDM [Mass Democratic Movement] is but one sign of the healthy tensions becoming manifest as politics in South Africa normalises," declares Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 15 December in a page 10 editorial. "The blanket of oppression which increasingly smothered black political expression from 1948 until earlier this year resulted in the appearance of there being one authentic black leadership, one authentic black view, and one set of authorised black demands." "The more the debate is allowed to develop, the less will black organisations appear to march in lock-step or white liberals feel compelled to support them merely because they are oppressed or their leaders incarcerated."

#### SOWETAN

**Mandela Talks 'Charade' Without Release**—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 15 December in a page 6 editorial opines "There is no denying that Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela has grown to be a symbol of the liberation struggle, so that reports of his meeting with State President F.W. de Klerk are news around the world. To some, particularly in the international community and some sections of the ruling group in this country, it is welcome news. To others, particularly those engaged in fighting apartheid, it is disturbing news." Extra-parliamentary opponents of apartheid, "the people who really count if there is to be dialogue in this country, are unhappy that the Government still persists in talking to a person it is still holding prisoner. What ever else might be achieved by these meetings becomes

worthless when measured against this objection. Mandela can talk to the Government authoritatively only after he is released unconditionally from prison, once he has had a chance to consult with the people. The rest is just a charade performance for the international media."

#### THE NATAL WITNESS

**Judicial Inquiry Into 'Hit Squads' 'Only Credible Way'.**  
Pietermaritzburg THE NATAL WITNESS in English on 8 December in a page 14 editorial states: "It is incredible that police inability over the years to find the

perpetrators of attacks on individuals and organisations on the left of the political spectrum has been matched only by their celerity in making arrests since a prisoner on death row decided to spill the beans about his involvement in police hit squads. Yet another five people have been arrested this week." "Why has this not come out before?" "The whole matter would seem to be more sinister and more serious than even the Information Scandal. The sooner the can of worms is opened and the body politic purged, the better. And for this to happen the appointment of a judicial commission of inquiry is the only credible way forward."



## Angola

### Commentary Says U.S. Main Obstacle to Peace

MB141220 589 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1930 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] The U.S. Government indicated in its usual view on the international situation, broadcast by the "Voice of America" last Monday [11 December], that the solution to the so-called "Angolan internal conflict" should await the conclusion of the withdrawal of Cuban international troops from Angola, scheduled for July 1991.

In the view of President George Bush administration, it will only be possible to reach an understanding (accord) toward finding a solution to the war situation, which has decapitated the country in the past 15 years, after the last Cuban internationalist soldier withdraws from Angola.

This position by the biggest imperialist superpower in the world clearly contrasts with the positive course of events in the southern African region, where, after Angola, Cuba and South Africa signed the New York Agreements in 1988, with U.S. mediation, the international community hopes to see a climate of harmony as soon as possible.

Now, there is no doubt in anyone's mind that the United States is the principal, if not the sole, obstacle to the peace process in Angola. Only its encouragement to UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] to continue destabilizing the country has thwarted the agreements reached that the Angolan Government and UNITA, led by its leader, reached in Gbadolite in the presence of the majority of African states.

On various occasions, the Angolan Government has denounced before the international community the U.S. contempt for the most elementary norms governing international coexistence, particularly as relates to people's free determination to follow the path that they have sovereignly chosen.

In his recent visit to Cuba, where he represented the Angolan people at the memorial service for the Cuban internationalist soldiers who fell in Angola and Ethiopia, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos once again blamed the United States for the climate of violence that prevails in the country. He once again denounced the criminal military and financial support that the "empire" continues to render to UNITA, thus deluding this group into thinking that it will be able to use the war to defeat the Angolan people, who are supporting their government and vanguard party.

One thing is certain: One should learn from history, and the United States seems not to understand that the Angolan people were born and raised under the banner of war and heroism. They inflicted the biggest defeat on racist South Africa that it ever suffered on the battlefield

and contributed decisively to changing the balance of forces in favor of the movement for national liberation in southern Africa.

The millions of U.S. dollars invested and to be invested in supporting the continuation of the subversive war in Angola will not make the Angolan people give up their sovereignty. The forthcoming proclamation of Namibian independence will be a major victory toward the Angolan people's aspirations for peace. Since 1975, they have spared neither effort nor sacrifice in order to support the fraternal people of Namibia in their fight against South African colonial domination. This situation is (certainly worrying) the ring-leaders [words indistinct] Angolan people's determination to defend their gains.

The successive U.S. Governments' interference in Angolan affairs date far back. The United States has never wanted to accept the independence of the Angolan people and the establishment of [word indistinct] democratic government that defends the right of the majority. As a matter of fact, it is ridiculous that a superpower should continue to not believe in the capacity of a people. It does not understand how a small country, suffering hostility and blockade, was able to give the greatest example of internationalism in our era, as was the case with the Cuban people in Angola.

Could a superpower that is responsible for safeguarding world peace congratulate itself for [words indistinct] that Angola occupies in the world with regard to the thousands of people killed, [words indistinct] as well as the present state of the economy?

The internal peace plan drafted by the Angolan Government was presented and accepted at Gbadolite by the sons of Angola and by African leaders. This plan centers on reintegrating UNITA elements into the Angolan Government institutions as long as there is an end to foreign interference. The government continues to fight so that the agreements reached will be implemented, despite U.S. hostility.

## Comoros

### Mercenaries Evacuate, French Troops Arrive 15 Dec

#### 'Power Transfer' Cited

AB1412163889 Paris AFP in French 1324 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Mayotte, 14 Dec (AFP)—The mercenaries leading the Presidential Guard (GP) in Comoros, the only army in the archipelago, have made a number of nominations within the Comoran ranks of the GP at a ceremony today in Moroni, it was disclosed by several witnesses contacted by telephone from the French island of Mayotte. The ceremony was attended by Bob Denard, who admitted this morning at a news conference the principle of his departure from the Comoros as requested by France and South Africa, the two influential powers in the archipelago.

About 15 French and Belgian mercenaries, including the marquis "commander," the GP leader, attended this ceremony, which took place at the GP headquarters. Bob Denard was not in uniform—He wore a bush shirt, it was stated by several witnesses, including the mercenary "Daniel," contacted by telephone. Several non-commissioned officers were promoted to the rank of officer at this ceremony attended by several hundreds of the Comoran elements of the Guard, who might be part of a power transfer to the Comorans before the departure of Bob Denard and his men, it was underscored by witnesses.

#### **Mercenaries To Leave 'Shortly'**

AB1412163589 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Mayotte, Dec 14 (AFP)—Five or six of Bob Denard's 30 mercenaries leading the Presidential Guard in the Comoros will be leaving for Paris shortly, one of the mercenaries said Thursday.

"I'm leaving tonight," 'Lieutenant Didier' told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on the telephone line from the Comoros to Mayotte, the remaining French dependency in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

'Lieutenant Didier' added that "five or six advisors" (mercenaries) would be aboard a regular Air France flight for Paris leaving at 8:35 pm (1735 GMT), with the wives and families of several other mercenaries.

Informed aviation sources in Nairobi meanwhile said the plane would be around three hours behind schedule, leaving Moroni, the Comoran capital, at 2030 GMT.

'Lieutenant Didier' added that he did not know when Mr. Denard would leave. "Other departures will take place gradually," he said. [passage omitted]

#### **Denard's Family, Mercenaries Depart**

AB1412212189 Paris AFP in French 2104 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Moroni, 14 Dec (AFP)—Half a dozen mercenaries, accompanied by women and children, left Comoros this evening at about 2030 GMT on board an Air France plane bound for Paris, an AFP correspondent reported. According to diplomatic sources, a total of 23 individuals, including the Comoran wife and two children of Bob Denard, the mercenary leader who has been in control of the island since last month, left the archipelago following pressure from Paris and Pretoria.

The departure of "Colonel" Denard and the other mercenaries is considered imminent.

#### **French Troops To Take Over**

AB1412222689 Paris AFP in French 2200 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Moroni, 14 Dec (AFP)—French troops will disembark tomorrow morning on the Comoros archipelago to take over from the French mercenaries controlling the island. The mercenaries' leader, Bob Denard, will leave Moroni in the course of the day. This was learned this evening from a reliable source in Moroni. According to this source, who wanted to remain anonymous, "Colonel" Denard and all the other mercenaries who have not yet left for Paris by this evening will leave Moroni for South Africa on board a Hercules C-130 aircraft belonging to the South African Army.

#### **French Military Operations 'Start'**

AB1512063489 Paris AFP in French 0550 GMT  
15 Dec 89

[Text] Mayotte, 15 Dec (AFP)—French military operations in the Comoros started this morning at 0740 local time (0440 GMT) with the departure of five Puma helicopters from the French island of Mayotte, observers noticed. The departure of the five helicopters from the Badamiers Camp (Mayotte), was followed at 0800 local time by that of a first Transall Cargo Transport plane carrying some 60 soldiers from the 2d Marine Parachute Infantry Regiment (RPIMA), observers also noticed at Dzaoudzi Airport. About 150 other soldiers from the same regiment were seen boarding three other Transall planes on the same airstrip. All these planes were heading straight for Moroni, capital of the Comoros, it was confirmed by Colonel Philippe Charrier, chief of staff of the SIRPA (Information and Public Relations Service of the Army).

French military authorities in Mayotte declined to disclose the aim of this operation, but according to well-informed sources on the French island, this operation is aimed at assisting the Comoran forces after the departure of Bob Denard's mercenaries, who have been in control of the archipelago since 26 November, the day of the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah in mysterious circumstances. It will be recalled that the Comoros and France are bound by a defense agreement.

Bob Denard is expected to leave the Comoros today for South Africa, according to well-informed sources in Moroni.

Apart from these aircrafts, the French military set-up comprises four ships from the National Navy including the supplier and command ship "La Marne" on board which is Rear-Admiral Pierre Banot. The three other ships are: The escort vessel "Protet," the light supply vessel "La Granierf," and the patrolboat "La Boud-euse." These ships have been positioned just outside the territorial waters of the Comoros (12 nautical miles of the coast).

**50 Soldiers Land at Moroni Airport***AB1512081089 Paris AFP in French 0759 GMT  
15 Dec 89*

[Text] Moroni, 15 Dec (AFP)—The 50 French soldiers from the Marine Parachute Infantry Regiment have landed from five Puma helicopters at the Moroni Hahaya Airport. Two Transall transport planes of the French Army also landed a few moments afterward.

**'Takeover' of Presidential Guard***EA1512084689 Paris AFP in English 0834 GMT  
15 Dec 89*

[Excerpts] Moroni, Dec 15 (AFP)—Fifty French paratroopers aboard helicopters landed at Hahaya Airport on the Comoro Islands Friday [15 December] to takeover from mercenaries who have held sway since the murder of the president in November.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter watched as two French Air Force Transall transport planes touched down after the five Puma helicopters marking the start of the operation.

The men of the 2nd Parachute Regiment had flown out from neighboring Mayotte, a French dependency in the Indian Ocean. A third Transall had also left Mayotte.

French military authorities had refused to reveal the aim of the mission, saying only that the forces were heading for Moroni.

But informed sources on Mayotte said the marines would assist the Comoro Armed Forces following the departure of French mercenary leader Bob Denard, who has ruled the archipelago since the November 26 murder of President Ahmed Abdallah. [passage omitted]

Mr. Denard, in civilian dress, had been awaiting the arrival of the paratroopers at the airport for about one hour.

He would be flown out aboard a South African Hercules C-130 transport plane along with about 20 French mercenaries later Friday, reliable sources said.

The French detachment landed at nine a.m. local time, 0600 GMT, and took over the Presidential Guard.

Two companies of about 250 men of the guard stood to attention at the end of the runway, lined up in front of about 25 vehicles and several machine guns.

The South African plane was due to land about 0800 GMT and take off two hours later, the sources said.

**Paris Radio Reports***LD1512091789 Paris Domestic Service in French  
0900 GMT 15 Dec 89*

[Text] Fifty French paratroopers landed at Moroni airport in the Comoros this morning. They immediately took control of the Presidential Guard, which had been

in the hands of Bob Denard's mercenaries since 26 November. The latter had been waiting quietly on the runway for an hour, dressed in civilian clothes. A plane is now due to take Denard and those of his men who did not leave yesterday to Paris.

**Denard, 25 Others Leave for RSA***AB1512113689 Paris AFP in French 1123 GMT  
15 Dec 89*

[Text] Moroni, 15 Dec (AFP)—A group of about 25 mercenaries led by Bob Denard, the French mercenary left Moroni today at 1320 local time (1020 GMT) for [the Republic of] South Africa [RSA] which has agreed to let them transit through its territory, AFP correspondents noted at Moroni Hahaya Airport.

The mercenaries boarded a South African Hercules C-130 military transport plane. Their final destination after transiting through South Africa is immediately unknown. Their transit period should not exceed a few days, according to diplomatic sources.

**Mauritius****\* Japan Plans Diplomatic Representation***90EF0098A Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French  
20 Nov 89 p 4*

[Text] In a meeting with the prime minister on Friday, Japan's new ambassador, Mr Harashima, who has been accredited to the Mauritian Government and whose residence is in Madagascar, expressed the wish that Japan will have diplomatic representation in Port Louis by the end of his tour of duty.

The matter has been raised several times since Sir Anerood Jugnauth's official visit to Japan.

Mr Harashima remarked that new hotel accommodations financed with Japanese funding will result in increasing numbers of Japanese tourists traveling to Mauritius.

Direct air travel between Mauritius and Japan was another focus of the discussions. The prime minister renewed a request for landing rights in Tokyo and Mr Harashima affirmed that the request was being studied by the Japanese Government.

Mr H. Harashima also met with the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Sir Satcam Boolell. Sir Boolell reviewed cooperative efforts between Japan and Mauritius.

**\* Stronger Ties to Gulf States Advocated***90EF0098B Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French  
21 Nov 89 pp 1, 6*

[Article by Jacques David; passages within slantlines published in English]



[Text] Endowing Mauritius with a refinery will require an initial outlay of 2 billion dollars (about 30 billion rupees). Those involved in the discussions are very optimistic and point out that initial construction could begin by next year, particularly in view of the fact that the Government of Mauritius has expressed no objection to the undertaking. However, the minister of industry and technology, Mr Joseph Clarel Malherbe, has let it be known that the Mauritian private sector will take the /lead/ in this project in association with Arab investors. At the same time, the /joint venture/ for the construction of an integrated steelworks to manufacture /billets/ and galvanized pipes is "well advanced," it is said at the Government Building.

Mr Malherbe stated that, "With the installation of a refinery and oil terminal, they will again be talking about Mauritius next year. In all modesty, we believe that Mauritius will become an industrial giant in this region of the world, given the large investment that will be made in the country's various industrial sectors. Where the refinery is concerned, we will let the Mauritian private sector take the lead in seeking out the necessary investment funds, raw materials and technical input—in other words, the entire project. It has already been discussed in depth and the prime minister has expressed great interest in it. He has agreed to let work begin in earnest by next year."

The minister of industry added that while the government has approved the refinery installation, it intends to guard closely against any adverse effects on our environment. Moreover, the steelworks project is fairly well advanced and it is possible that between now and 1990, the government will bring all its weight to bear to bring this /joint venture/ between Mauritius and Arab investors to fruition. The government would like to see production of pipes, /fittings/, /billets/ and other plumbing parts used in construction. The steelworks will be called on to produce not only for the Mauritian market, but also for the markets of the African and Gulf countries as well.

Mr Joseph Clarel Malherbe also pointed out that 1990 will be devoted to a broad offensive in other capitals of the Gulf, with Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Bahrain among its targets. He added, "The Gulf has enormous potential and we have managed to penetrate the region. We knew from the outset that this sector of the world is not easy and that as soon as the peace treaty was signed between Iraq and Iran, the government had an obligation to go into this part of the world. At this stage, we believe we have succeeded because it was important that Mauritius be among the first to seek markets. That strategy has paid off because Mauritius is in a privileged position given Iraq's enormous needs for its consumers."

Negotiations are still scheduled to take place for the sale of our tea to Iraq and a technical delegation made up of Trade, Industry, and Navy officials and the Iraqi / Central Buying Office/ will visit Mauritius soon to

conclude an agreement to buy Mauritian shoes, cosmetics, and home sanitation products as well as / household cares/.

Minister Malherbe emphasized that this broad endeavor in the Gulf countries must be given the most earnest of efforts in groundlaying work and in follow-up. It will also require the support of all Mauritians in general. "We would like to see Mauritius prove, through earnest effort and stable policy, that we are all behind this new venture. Only with that outlook can the true Mauritian nation be built and develop its economic stability," the minister concluded.

## Mozambique

### South Africa's De Klerk, Botha Arrive 15 Dec

MB1512092789 Umtata Capital Radio in English  
0900 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] State President F.W. de Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha are in Maputo for talks with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano. It will be an official visit, and the two presidents will have lunch followed by a work session.

Observers say the release of jailed ANC [African National Congress] leader Nelson Mandela is expected to be discussed along with the subject of economic cooperation and security matters.

The visit is De Klerk's first African trip this year following an earlier meeting with Chissano and his visits to Zaire and Zambia in August and to the Ivory Coast earlier this month.

The South African delegation is expected to return early this afternoon.

## Maputo Radio Reports

MB1512110989 Maputo Domestic Service  
in Portuguese 1051 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Excerpts] We now bring you a report by Teresa Lima from Maputo International Airport on the visit by South African President Frederik de Klerk to Mozambique. Today's visit is at the invitation of President Joaquim Chissano.

[Lima] [Words indistinct] for a second time on a working visit at the invitation of Mozambican officials. Mozambique's peace process and the political situation in South Africa should be the main topics of the meeting between Chissano and De Klerk. [passage omitted]

The South African head of state is accompanied by Roelof Botha, his foreign minister, and the latter's deputy, Leon Wessels.

**FPLM Kills 11 'Armed Bandits' in Maputo Province**

*MB1412182289 Maputo Domestic Service  
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 14 Dec 89*

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces killed 11 armed bandits when a group of the criminals attacked the town of Marracuene in Maputo Province. Our armed forces also seized four weapons from the armed bandits.

A journalist from the Mozambique Experimental Television, who visited the site today, disclosed that the attackers destroyed a shop and a bar and slightly damaged the telephone exchange. The source added that the armed bandits stole a large quantity of rice, sugar, detergent, and newly arrived clothes for the festive season from the shop.

**Namibia****South African Interests Office To Issue Passports**

*MB1412211789 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1224 GMT 14 Dec 89*

[Text] Windhoek Dec 14 SAPA—The South African Interests Office in Namibia is to take over the issuing of passports from the Department of Civil Affairs and Manpower as from Monday [18 December], SWABC [South-West African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reports.

The acting head of the mission, Mr John Sande, said the issuing of passports was a service which would be delivered in Namibia until independence. He pointed out that South Africa [SA] remained responsible for foreign affairs until independence.

The Department of Civil Affairs and Manpower had already made personnel available for the transfer of the service, he said.

Mr Sande said there was no liaison at the moment between his office and Constituent Assembly on passports. Namibian passports would only be issued after the assembly had decided on citizenship, a national seal and emblem.

A spokesman for the department said all applications already handed in at the office would be processed before the transfer of the service.

Enquiries about applications and passports not dealt with yet must be directed to the SA Interests Office from Monday.

**Zimbabwe****Mugabe Returns From New York UN Talks**

*MB1512120889 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0855 GMT 15 Dec 89*

[Text] Harare Dec 15 SAPA—President Robert Mugabe arrived back in Harare on Friday [15 December], following a stopover in London on the way home from the United Nations in New York.

ZIANA, Zimbabwe's national news agency reported he addressed the UN General Assembly's special session on apartheid and urged members to throw their weight behind the Organization of African Unity (OAU) blueprint for ending apartheid in South Africa. The blueprint—the Harare declaration—was adopted by the OAU's ad hoc committee on southern Africa at a meeting in Harare in August and has been endorsed by the Non-Aligned Movement, which has more than 100 member states.

In his address to the UN, President Mugabe said African leaders had, in the Harare declaration, provided SA [South African] President F.W. de Klerk with a "navigational manual" on how to bring about freedom, justice and progress.

The declaration was used as a basis for a draft declaration. Elements referring to armed struggle and sanctions have however been watered down in an attempt to obtain consensus, the ZIANA report said.



## Benin

### Opposition Organization Supports Popular Rebellion

AB1412170889 Paris AFP in French 1551 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 14 Dec (AFP)—The Democracy and Progress Association, chaired by the former head of state Emile Derlin Zinsou, supports the rebellion of the Beninese people "against oppression" and calls on democratic nations to help this country "to get rid of this barbaric regime which continues to kill the partisans of freedom." A communique of the association stated that "it is an obvious fact that the entire Beninese people forever reject the Marxist-Leninist ideology, which is currently denounced as nefarious by the very people who created it over 70 years ago and which has everywhere led the people only to misery."

The association asks that the Beninese people "remain mobilized and vigilant" in the face of "the dishonest maneuvers" of President Mathieu Kerekou's regime to stay in power. The association, the communique added, "fully supports the Beninese people's revolt against oppression, dictatorship, and misery, and manifests its total solidarity with them in their bid to restore democratic freedoms and progress to a politically and economically renovated Benin."

According to Mr Zinsou, this association, created in November 1989, aims at "bringing together nationals and friends of Benin, establishing active solidarity ties among its members, and working for the achievement of a true democracy and social, economic, and cultural development in Benin."

### Donors Pledge Funds for Bailout of Country

AB1412210389 Paris AFP in English 2043 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, Dec 14 (AFP)—Major donors to Benin agreed here Thursday [14 December] to give the financially strapped West African nation enough money to enable its government to meet pay claims from the end of December, a statement reported after a meeting here.

In Cotonou and in Benin's official capital, Porto-Novo, police and troops were stationed Thursday at main crossroads at bridges to stop a demonstration planned by the banned communist party as part of a rising tide of anti-government unrest.

The Paris statement, made after a creditor group meeting called by France, did not say how much donors had agreed to provide, but a reliable source said they planned to step up disbursements of aid already promised to President Mathieu Kerekou's government.

The World Bank, Switzerland and France announced contributions "enabling the government of Benin to honour its commitments from the end of December. The

European Development Fund has agreed to cover payments" of expenditure for the last quarter of 1989, the statement said.

After a weekly Cabinet meeting in Benin on Wednesday [13 December], the government broadcast a warning that any demonstrations would be severely punished and posted armed security forces in the key towns.

Two people, including a 12-year-old boy, were shot dead in a first crackdown last Monday on demonstrators calling for General Kerekou to stand down.

Leaflets circulated Thursday by a people's convention and a committee of national salvation said the street demonstrations were being postponed.

Also postponed, until December 18-21, was a general congress of "action and struggle committees," which for some months have been organising strikes in the civil service, where people have not been paid for five to six months.

About 45,000 of them were still on strike Thursday, and were joined as a gesture of solidarity by post office staff who have been getting paid regularly.

Benin has estimated its needs at eight billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs (26.5 million dollars), but still has enough reserves to make up what it owes on top of Thursday's commitments, an informed source here said.

The statement described the donors' action as an "exceptional gesture, aimed at facilitating the recovery of the economic and social situation."

Reliable sources said Beninese officials would meet donors here or in Cotonou next February to examine the 1990 structural adjustment programme the government is drawing up with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## Burkina Faso

### \* Diendere Reviews Chronology of Foiled Coup

90EF0086A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE  
in French Oct 89 pp 48-50

[Article by Mamadou Alpha Barry: "Chronology According to Diendere"; first four paragraphs are JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE introduction]

[Text] The key man in the events that led to the foiling of the coup d'etat tells, hour by hour, how he made the attempt fail.

Now 31 years old, married and the father of a child, Gilbert Diendere is the secretary for defense and security of the Executive Committee of the Popular Front.

Educated at the Kadiogo Military Academy, he is the son of a soldier who lived at Saint-Louis, in Senegal. He spent 1 year at the Faculty of Law of the University of

Ouagadougou before leaving to attend Saint-Cyr in France in 1979. In 1982 he returned to Burkina with the rank of second lieutenant. He was assigned to the National Commando Center in Po in December 1982, where he was deputy to Captain Blaise Compaore. He succeeded him in 1983.

Diendere provided exclusively to JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE the following account of the events of 18 September 1989.

As secretary for defense and national defense of the Executive Committee of the Popular Front, I was scheduled to leave on 15 September on a visit to the western part of the country, traveling to Bobo Dioulasso, Banfora, and Orodara. The purpose of the trip was to explain the establishment of the People's Vigilance Brigades, which had been decided on at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 12 August 1989.

My travel orders were to be signed by Major Jean-Baptiste Lingani, the commander in chief. As soon as he had signed the document, he called me on the telephone to tell me that he wanted to see me without fail before I left on my trip.

It was about 1700 on 15 September. This was the time at which the weekly meeting of the Ministerial Council of Administration (CAM) was held. I had warned the soldier who was to accompany me on the trip that our departure had been delayed until about 2000, that is, after the meeting of the CAM and my interview with Major Lingani. I went to Lingani's office, where he made a long speech about the political life of the country, his relationships with the president of the Popular Front, as well as on the relationship between the president and Captain Henri Zongo. According to him, things were no longer going well. He held it against the president for not contacting Capt Henri Zongo and himself when he made political decisions. According to him, the president was trying to bypass them to appoint civilians in their place. In reality, he indicated, the true object was to eliminate the two of them physically.

When I expressed my astonishment that relations were not good among the three former comrades, he replied that they only talked about unimportant questions when they were together and never touched on serious matters. He told me that a number of young officers were proposing to go and see the president on his return from a trip to ask him to appoint him, Lingani, to a merely honorific position so that he would leave the Army. According to Lingani, these officers would say that Lingani was no longer up to exercising command because he no longer controlled the Army. The major talked to me for 3 hours.

As I was flabbergasted to hear this, I did not reply. He took a long time to get to the point but finally told me that the best thing to do was to arrest the president on his return from his current trip.

His plan consisted of letting the aircraft land, surrounding it at the end of the landing strip, and arresting the president. If the president showed any signs of resistance or if his bodyguards opened fire, it would be necessary to shoot at the aircraft. According to Lingani, the members of the president's party were of little importance because they were all reactionaries. In fact, he was entrusting me with this operation. After it was completed, my men and I were to go to the radio station and neutralize anyone who might attempt to resist. If any difficulties came up, he would appeal to other elements of the armed forces. He, himself, would come to the airport to give the appearance of welcoming the president. Once the operation was over, he would return to his home. After this he would send someone to read a statement on the radio.

When calm returned, he would come to the cabinet office (seat of the Popular Front, behind the presidency of Burkina Faso—editor's note).

As he was a division commander, I came directly under his command. He entrusted me with missions to carry out. However, this time, how could I do things of which I totally disapproved! Of course, I could not express my disagreement immediately. He would have ordered his men to dispose of me. I no longer supported him openly. However, I was afraid that he would sense my reservations. It was then 2200 on 15 September.

Since the hour was late, I asked my companion on this trip if it was necessary to leave immediately for Bobo Dioulasso. I did not reveal to him my discussions with Major Lingani. As I had arranged to have people's structures (basic organizational unit of the Popular Front—editor's note) in several provinces called together, he felt that it was absolutely necessary for me to leave at once. However, I kept in mind the serious statements that Major Lingani had made to me in confidence.

The president was to return to Ouagadougou on Monday, 18 September. I was to return on 17 September. I told myself that even if the president cut short his trip, all of the operations in connection with the coup depended on me. Lingani could not take action by himself.

My travelling companion and I left for Bobo Dioulasso. We arrived at 0300 on 16 September and carried out the mission in Bobo, Banfora, and Orodara. I was a bundle of nerves, sick, and worn out. I returned to Ouagadougou at midnight on 17 September. My family warned me that Major Lingani had telephoned me and asked me to call him. Tired of the whole business, I did not call him back. On the morning of 18 September and again at noon he telephoned me. At 1600 on 18 September I went to his office. He confirmed to me that the president would arrive at 2100 on 18 September. It would, therefore, be necessary to make all of our preparations to prevent the coup from failing.

Major Lingani took a sheet of paper on which he wrote down the measures to be taken after the operation at the airport. Note that the comment, "Surveillance of Joanny," was not added until after the major met with Capt Henri Zongo, subsequent to when I had left his office. Major Joanny was his deputy, with whom he was not on very good terms.

After leaving Lingani's office I went to the cabinet office, making sure that I was not followed. I called in Lieutenant Ouedraogo Ouesseini, my deputy at the command post in Po, as well as other officers present. I told them of my conversations with Major Lingani and I concluded by telling them that I did not agree with Lingani. It remained a matter of finding a way of stopping the operation before it got under way. As far as the rest of the situation was concerned, I had thought about it continuously during the whole weekend. I could not reveal the matter too soon, because that would have involved making a serious accusation against a superior officer without any material evidence.

It was 1800 on 18 September. We decided to arrest Major Lingani before anything irreparable really happened because the arrival of the president was imminent. An officer was sent to check things out at the high command and find out if Lingani was there. To his surprise, two ministerial automobiles were parked in the courtyard, assigned to Lingani and Zongo. We immediately sent men to go and arrest them.

There was no fighting. Lingani's bodyguard was composed of men belonging to our unit. We kept them in position. Lingani's aide went into the major's office and shouted: "We're under attack!" Lingani jumped through the second floor window into the back alley. He no longer had the reflexes of youth and fell off balance, dislocating his shoulder. His aide helped him to get up. The two men tore off their emblems of rank, took off their jackets, and fled in their tee shirts. They tried to hide in a trench behind the military camp, the aide jumping into it over the wall. The aide asked for a telephone. The first number he called did not answer. The second number was that of an officer. The aide asked him to come for the major, whose automobile allegedly had broken down. The officer drove away with the two men, not suspecting anything. Shortly afterwards the commander of Lingani's bodyguard called in all of the officers in the camp to inform them that the major had fled. It was 2300 on 18 September at that point.

When the detachment that left to arrest Lingani came back to the council emptyhanded, we decided on an unusual course of action. We called on the commanders of the military units in Ouagadougou to come to a special meeting at 2030 on 18 September, using the national radio service. The regional military commanders were also informed. Would it be necessary to redirect the president's airplane to another airport or to put off its time of arrival until later on? I decided to let it land normally, because we had the situation well in hand,

while taking the necessary security measures to avoid any desperate, attempted attack at the airport.

After the president's airplane landed, we did not let it taxi to the usual parking place. We immediately accompanied the president to the cabinet office, where a short meeting was organized between him and the principal government leaders.

Captain Zongo was at the airport, no doubt to appear innocent. Subsequently, he even came to the cabinet office to attend the meeting. His name was not mentioned as one of the conspirators, because at that time there was no formal evidence of his guilt. He returned to his home. When Lingani was arrested around 2400 on 18 September, he admitted everything. He denounced Capt Henri Zongo, detailed all of the contacts that he had had with me and indicated his intentions in a forthright way.

At this point Diendere was asked whether Lingani had been mistreated. Diendere replied that Lingani was not roughed up in any way. A doctor was even called to examine him. His statements were broadcast on the radio. His voice was clear, unhesitant, and quite recognizable.

Diendere continued his narrative. He said that Capt Henri Zongo, who was at home, was asked to come to the cabinet office. He refused point-blank.

To avoid any bloodshed, we asked his guards to leave his home. We went to see him. At first he hesitated to confess. That was when two other leaders of the abortive coup were confronted with each other. Both of them admitted their involvement. However, Captain Zongo added that he was concerned about preserving innocent lives. He recalled that he had no troops and that he had simply followed the commander in chief of the armed forces and the chief of presidential security. Moreover, he said now that he was more determined than Lingani.

They had brought Captain Sabyamba Koundaba into the conspiracy. He was assigned responsibility for communications and was to send messages to the different military regions after the coup.

Diendere was asked: "How many people were involved in the plan?"

He replied: "First of all, there were the four military officers who were caught redhanded. Major Lingani did not wish to denounce any other persons. According to him, the execution of the coup was turned over to the presidential security unit. There was no need for other accomplices. He only referred to certain civilians who came to see him. Without speaking openly to him they seemed to have made some suggestions.

Diendere was asked: "What happened to the conspirators?"

He replied: "I am not in a position to answer your question."



He was asked: "Did you command the firing squad?"

He answered: "No. I did not leave the cabinet office, because I was directing operations."

He was asked: "Was the sentence on the officers approved unanimously?"

He said: "Yes."

He was asked: "Your nerves must have been under severe strain during these 3 days. How did you get through this period?"

He answered: "It was very difficult. The commander in chief of the armed forces, who was the acting chief of state, asked me to betray the confidence of the president, whereas the criticism that he made against the president did not seem well taken to me. I could not accept this."

He was asked: "Were the bodies of the people executed turned over to their families?"

He replied: "The body of a dead soldier is never turned over to his family."

He was asked: "Were there any other arrests?"

He answered: "No. Contrary to what has been said, neither Minister Jean Yado Toe nor Professor Soumaila Keita was arrested."

He was asked: "People say that you are the principal beneficiary of the abortive coup."

He replied: "That is not true. I received no promotion. My only motive was to serve our country."

### Guinea-Bissau

#### President Vieira Departs 'Unexpectedly' for Zaire

AB1412193989 Paris AFP in French 1857 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Bissau, 14 Dec (AFP)—President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau unexpectedly left Bissau this morning for Zaire, it was learned this afternoon from reliable sources in the Guinea-Bissau capital. The same sources indicate that General Vieira, who boarded a special airplane very early today, would hold talks in Zaire on the situation in Angola, in his capacity as the leader in charge of coordinating the activities of five Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe).

### Ivory Coast

#### Benin Opposition in Exile Calls for Strike

AB1412193789 Paris AFP in French 1259 GMT  
14 Dec 89

[Text] Abidjan, 14 Dec (AFP)—The Beninese opposition in exile calls on the Beninese people to embark on a

general strike "to force the men currently in power in Cotonou to resign," and it questions the support being given by creditors to President Mathieu Kerekou's regime. This was told to AFP today by a representative of the Movement of "Liberal Democrats of Benin." This movement, which was created at the end of a roundtable conference on 2 and 3 December in Versailles, France, includes several Beninese political officials, among them a former president of the Republic of Dahomey (Benin's former name), Mr Elime Derlin Zinsou.

"Mathieu Kerekou's regime is not credible. The man has been unable to rule the country for 17 years. He is not going to learn now," said the representative, who expressed much reservation about the use to be made of the funds to be provided by the country's "partners." Benin's principal creditors (France, the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Development Fund) are scheduled to meet today in Paris at the request France to examine the modalities for the exceptional financial assistance they intend to give to this country.

Benin might need about 8 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs (Fr 160 million) before the end of the year to pay the salary arrears of some 50,000 civil servants who are demanding payment for the 3 last months of 1989 and the last quarter of 1988.

The opposition members in exile have expressed pleasure over the strikes that have for several days been paralyzing the various ministries and administrative services of the country. They hail the decision by the postal services trade union and the workers of the Benin Water and Electricity Company, yesterday to begin a 3-day work stoppage as a sign of solidarity. They call for a general strike action "to force Kerekou to depart."

On the other hand, they call on the Beninese people to avoid all violent demonstrations, in view of the threats by the authorities," and they deplore the deaths of the young people killed on 11 December during the clashes with the security forces.

A 20-year-old adolescent and 12-year old child were killed on 11 December, and several others injured in various incidents in Cotonou on 11 December during a demonstration organized by the opposition. The "Liberal Democrats" Movement demands Kerekou's departure and recommends the establishment of a "transitional regime for a period not exceeding 6 months."

Moreover one of its representatives, Mr Idelphonse Lemon, a banker, has renewed his request to serve on the special commission, whose establishment was announced at the beginning of December by the Beninese authorities. It will be charged with probing the assets of dignitaries of the Kerekou regime. An earlier request made to President Kerekou has so far remained a dead letter, he disclosed to AFP.

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18 Dec 1989



